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Curators.

John R. Baker, Patterson DuBois, J. Cheston Morris.

Treasurer.

J. Sergeant Price.

Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., was nominated for Librarian, and the nominations were closed.

Dr. A. S. Gatschet presented through the Secretaries a "Third Article on the Beothuk Indians."

Prof. Ryder presented a paper on "The Eye, the Ocular Muscles, and the Lachrymal Glands of the Shrew-mole."

Pending nominations Nos. 1203, 1204 and 1205, and new nominations Nos. 1206 and 1207 were read.

And the Society was adjourned by the President.

Stated Meeting, January 17, 1890.

Present, 20 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Dr. George Friebeis, a lately elected member, was presented to the Chair, and took his seat.

Correspondence was submitted as follows:

A letter from Dr. Antonio Peñafiel (Mexico), announcing that his address would be, for some time to come, Berlin, Prussia (Kupfergraben 4).

Accessions to the Library were announced from the Académie des Sciences, Cracow, Austria; Physiologische Gesellschaft, Berlin; Gartenbauverein, Darmstadt; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie, etc., Munich Bavaria; Académie Royale de Belgique, Bruxelles; Senator Pietro Ellero, Bologna, Italy; Biblioteca N. C., Firenze; R. Accademia dei Lincei, Rome; Rédaction "Cosmos," Sociétés de l'Enseignement, Géographie, Ethnographie, Ecole des

Mines, Paris; Geological, Astronomical, Meteorological, Geographical Societies, Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, "Nature," London; Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Philosophical Society, Glasgow; Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, Montreal; Canadian Institute, Toronto; American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Society of Natural History, Boston; Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge; Brown University, Providence, R. I.; Yale University, "American Journal of Science," New Haven, Conn.; Entomological Society, Prof. W. Le Conte Stevens, Brooklyn; Cornell University, Ithaca; New York Academy of Sciences, American Chemical Society, New York Historical Society, Rev. John Hall, D.D., New York; College of Pharmacy, Franklin Institute, Editors of the "Medical and Surgical Reporter" and the "Medical News," Prof. H. D. Gregory, LL.D., Philadelphia; U. S. Naval Institute, Annapolis; Maryland Institute, Baltimore; U. S. Engineer Office, Department of the Interior and of State, Commissioner of Education, U. S. Fish Commission, Mr. Lester F. Ward, Col. Garrick Mallery, Washington, D. C.

Photographs were received from Il Marchese de Gregorio Palermo, and Dr. R. H. Alison, Ardmore, Pa.

The deaths of the following members were announced:

J. H. C. Coffin, U. S. N., January 8, 1890, Washington, D. C. æt. 75.

William D. Kelley, M. C. (of Philadelphia), at Washington, D. C., January 9, 1890 (b. April 12, 1814).

The stated business of the meeting was then taken up, and Henry Phillips, Jr., was unanimously reelected Librarian for the ensuing year.

On motion, the President was authorized to appoint at his leisure the Standing Committees of the Society, which he subsequently appointed as follows:

Finance.

William B. Rogers, Philip C. Garrett, C. S. Wurts.

Publication.

Daniel G. Brinton, George H. Horn, Samuel Wagner,
Patterson DuBois, Horace Jayne.

Michaux Legacy.

Thomas Meehan, J. Sergeant Price, Aubrey H. Smith,
William M. Tilghman, Isaac Burk.

Hall.

J. Sergeant Price, William A. Ingham, Charles A. Oliver.

Library.

Edwin J. Houston, William V. McKean, Wm. John Potts,
Jesse Y. Burk, William H. Greene.

Henry M. Phillips' Prize Essay Fund.

Richard Vaux, Henry Phillips, Jr., William V. McKean,
Furman Sheppard, Joseph C. Fraley,

and

The President of the Society, }
The Treasurer of the Society, } *ex officio.*

Dr. Harrison Allen made an oral communication on "The Variations of the Forms of Human Teeth."

He stated that moncuspidate teeth are those which first appear in any given series, and that the bicuspitate and the multicuspitate forms are complications due to additions to the moncuspidate. He claimed that the quadritubercular human molar resolves itself into two pairs of adjoined cusps which are arranged endo-ectally, and not as he at one time stated* into a tritubercular form to which is appended a rudimental fourth cusp. He also believed that teeth when degenerated do not of necessity descend along the lines of ascent. As a rule they infrequently do so. In his opinion, degenerated teeth (and these were illustrated from the orders of Cheiroptera, Rodentia, and Primates) are all essentially alike, inasmuch as they exhibit losses of characteristic details, while retaining the lateral thickenings and contour lines. Some of these may be mimetic of the true tritubercular molar. It is necessary to remember, that forms of teeth when passing into degeneration are in reality expressions of teratological phenomena and have little or no taxonomic value.

* "Dental Cosmos," December, 1874.

Pending nominations 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207 and new nomination 1208 were read.

Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., presented some statistics relating to the Society.

Dr. Oliver offered the following preamble and resolution :

Whereas, It is both honorable and just that we, the present representatives of the American Philosophical Society, should show our affection and regard for our illustrious founder and first President, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, who died on the 17th day of April, 1790, be it,

Resolved, That we commemorate his life, his wisdom, his labors, and his achievements by proper and fitting ceremonies becoming such an occasion, on the 17th day of April, 1890 ; the form of the commemoration to be referred to a Special Committee of five members, to be appointed by the President, who shall be empowered to take all necessary action.

Which, after discussion, was adopted.

The President subsequently appointed as such Committee, Messrs. Charles A. Oliver, Henry Phillips, Jr., Arthur Biddle William John Potts and William H. Greene.

Dr. Morris made some remarks on the desirability of better accommodations for the possessions of the Society. On motion of Mr. Dudley it was

Resolved, That the President appoint a Committee of five members to consider the whole subject, and to ascertain if the Society can obtain additional space in the vicinity of its Hall, and that the President should also be a member of the Committee.

The President subsequently appointed as such Committee, Messrs. J. Cheston Morris, Thomas H. Dudley, J. Sergeant Price, Richard Vaux and William P. Tatham.

A communication from the Chairman of the Committee on the Michaux Legacy, in reference to an appropriation of \$150 towards the expenses of a scientific expedition about to proceed to Mexico, was referred to the Committee to report upon at the next meeting.

And the Society was adjourned by the President.